Control Programme (1999-2004), Government is giving the highest priority to an effective and sustained awareness campaign amongst the general population through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC).

The Government's programme for awareness generation follows a multi media approach which include television, radio, press, print, and outdoor publicity and interpersonal communication and advocacy. These are carried out extensively through linkages with media units of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, and through intersectoral partnerships with other ministries and sectors.

For sensitization of children and young people, the School AIDS Education Programme, the Universities Talk AIDS and Village Talk AIDS programmes are being implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

(b) No, Sir. No Ayurvedic medicine has been reported which enhances the immune response within the human body to the extent that the HIV/ AIDS virus becomes ineffective and harmless.

Production of spurious drugs

1156. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the production and distribution of spurious drugs;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware about their implications on the health of the citizens; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop distribution and production of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since manufacture and sale of spurious medicines is a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by the enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs in the interstate commerce. Government of India has taken the following steps:

(i) The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised the state drug controllers to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:—

(a) Constitution/reactivation of State Drug advisory Committees in which various trade and industry associations as well as consumer associations should find representation.

(b) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with policy assistance. Training should be provided to selected officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc. in respect of spurious/ counterfeit drugs.

(c) To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples by establishing own state level drug testing facilities.

(d) State Drugs Control Authorities should be cautions while approving licences for drug products to ensure that 'look-alike' products are not encouraged.

(e) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(f) Surveillance of suspected dealers.

(g) Engaging experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(h) Cooperation of Pharmaceutical industry by regular interaction with them.

(i) Collection of Survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) programme.

(ii) The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare had written on October, 2002 to all the Chief Ministers seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to deal with this problem. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare also convened a meeting of the Health Ministers and Senior officials of 13 major states of the country on 12.11.2002 to discuss measures to ensure concerted action required to check movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all

stakeholders, including pharma industry, to curb the menace of manufacture and marketing of spurious/fake medicines.

(iii) Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of DGHS to examine the extent of problem and suggest remedial measures. Committee report has been submitted along with its recommendation in July 2002. A copy of the report of the committee constituted by the Government of India to examine the issues concerning availability of spurious drugs in the market and measures recommended there of have been sent to all the State Drugs Controllers for their implementation.

(iv) As a part of various measures taken up by Government Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare also invited the representatives of major pharma industries in the country on 27.1.2003 to hold a general discussion on the problem of spurious drugs and to ensure their active participation in fighting this menace.

(v) Government of India has set up an expert committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashalkar, DG, CSIR, Secy. to Govt. of India, to look into various issues related to drug control administration including the matter of effectively tackling the problem of spurious drugs.

(vi) Central Government have taken steps to augment the drugs testing facilities of State laboratories. Strengthening information system through Computer networking is also under implementation.

Recommendations of Mckinsey report on health care sector

1157. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2572 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations made in Mckinsey Report on health care sector to attract private funding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?